

enjoyment men are willing to pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What glorious results would follow if men were as zealous to achieve moral freedom. The noisiest patriot, often the bravest soldier in freedom's army, is an abject slave to self, to gross passions, to sin in many of her hideous shapes, and in this servitude all his soul is enthralled in dishonorable bondage. Why not declare war against the numerous and insolent foes who swarm over the threshold of the inner life? Why not march to the deliverance of Satan's reconcentrados, among whom belong your own starved, skeleton soul. Let Freedom have her perfect triumph in your own happy emancipation from the thralldom of self in body or soul, until thou shalt know what liberty means, the liberty of the sons of God. A Christian slave once stood up among his fellow bondmen, and said: "This body is Master's nigger, but this soul is Jesus freeman." How different the condition of thousands, externally more favored than he, who both in body and soul are Satan's 'niggers.'

Trustee Meeting

The regular annual meeting of the trustees of Ashland College was held in the college building Monday June 13. A notice of this meeting, number of members present, and the organization, was announced in last week's paper. Many, no doubt, were disappointed in not hearing of the action of the Board. An outline of the results of the meeting is herewith given.

The Board finds that to conduct the school on a scale that will meet the demands of the public, and in harmony with the principles of modern educational institutions, it is absolutely necessary to have an income aside from that which is furnished by the regular tuition. Such an income is not now at the command of the Board. In view of this fact the Board passed the following resolutions:

First, that we reopen the Theological Department in Ashland College, and arrange for such other work in connection therewith as may be demanded. The work to be under the care and direction of Rev. J. Allen Miller, assisted by Mrs. Miller, both late graduates of Hiram College.

Second, that we ask the Sisters' Society of Christian Endeavor to give their former support to the Theological Department of the school.

Third, that we at once draft a plan that will look toward, and provide for the support of, a more extended course of study, a course that will compare favorably with our best institutions.

The school will therefore open early in September under the management provided for in these resolutions. As soon as per-

fecting the Board will make known its plans for the enlargement of the work in the college. This will not be later than the time of National Conference, probably earlier.

Men and Methods

At the Ohio Missionary Convention of the Disciple church, held at Salem, May 25, 1898, Prof. E. V. Zollars, President of Hiram College, delivered an address on "Men Vs. Methods," in the introduction of which he says:

My subject is, "Men more than Methods." It might be equally well stated in the phrase, "Persons more than Plans." It means that a strong man well prepared for any given work is superior to all methods. It means that plans, however good in themselves, are utterly worthless, unless there is an efficient man behind them. It means that ideas are powerless until they are incarnated. It means, in a still broader sense, that life is superior to dogma. It means that the dynamic force of truth lies in the concrete, rather than in the abstract. It means that the question of *who* is great than the question of *what* or *how*, because the *who* determines the *what* and decides upon the *how*.

These are great statements, great because they are true. There is much talk about the needs of the day, but when it is all said and done, the fact still remains that humanly speaking the great need of the day is *men*. The church may continue to multiply methods and organizations, outline plans and form resolutions, but these are all dead weights without men back of them. We begin at the wrong end when we expect to get men through plans and methods. Men first, then methods and organizations. Successful plans of work are never wanting where there are the right kind of men. The former are the outgrowth of the latter; men produce methods, seldom do methods produce men. The Brethren church, as well as the Disciple, or any other church, needs to learn this lesson. We need system, need it badly, but we need men worse, and it is doubtful whether we will ever have the system until we get the men. Men, self-denying, self-sacrificing, devoted, consecrated, Christian men and women, Oh, that we had them as we need them.

Our present war with Spain has once more demonstrated, as history has demonstrated a thousand times, that in the critical hour, God and the church and the home and the country, needs above all else, *men*. The United States could not afford to exchange Dewey for a whole dozen Spanish fleets. He is worth more to us than the whole Spanish navy would be. Of what value is a splendid navy without men to manipulate the intricate machinery. A hundred Merrimacs could do but very little harm to Cervera's fleet, but *one* Merrimac and *Hobson* renders the whole fleet valueless. While Elisha lay dying on his bed the king came down to visit him and declared that the man of God was worth more to Israel than its horses and chariots, that is Israel could better afford to lose its splendid military organization than

to lose this man of God. So it has always been, so it is now in the church, so it will always remain. Russia wants to know who it is that built the battleship Oregon, the vessel that broke all records in making a trip of 13,000 miles without a dollar's worth of repair. The Russian Bear wants that man to build for *him* such a vessel or such vessels, but he fails to appreciate the fact that back of the vessel was intelligence, brain, American skill. What Russia wants is not only a *man* who can build such a vessel, but *men* who can operate it when it is built.

Back of all the church machinery, multiplied organizations, young people's societies, Sunday-schools, missionary societies, and every other auxiliary to the church, back of all these we say, is a person, a mighty Man, without which all this machinery would be a useless waste of energy, that person is the Christ. And friends, next to this Christ, must stand, not church machinery, but men and women, and nothing, no kind of church machinery, methods, plans or organizations, must come between that person which is Christ, and these men and women. May the Holy Spirit bring us closer to Christ, and then through us will he work out his own purposes, in his own ways and by his own plans. The center, the heart of Christianity, is not the church, not a system of philosophy, not a school of thought, but a person, the divine Christ, the eternal Son of God, who ever liveth and reigneth.

An Earnest Word to S. S. Teachers

At the opening of a new quarter a few words to Sunday school teachers as to the proper use of lesson "Helps" may not be out of place. After all it does not depend so much on the "Helps" put into the teacher's hand as on the manner in which he uses them. The very best "Helps" will prove a failure in the hands of an indifferent lazy teacher, while the most meager notes and comments on the lesson, in the hands of good, active, live, wide awake teacher are a power for good. It is a lamentable fact that the vast majority of teachers do not give the time to the preparation of the Sunday school lesson that is necessary to insure success. They depend on their "Helps" and so far as our observation goes, we have never yet known a teacher to succeed in his work who puts off the matter of preparation until Sunday morning, and then hastily glances over the lesson and the comments during the hour of devotion at the opening of the school. Such teaching *must* end in failure; it would not be right if it were to succeed, for it is contrary to every principle that lies at the foundation of success in all other departments of life and activity.

We have made no effort to prepare "Helps" for the lazy teacher, nor yet for the teacher who is too busily engaged during the week